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UNCLAS ANKARA 000380

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR NP/PTR AND EUR/SE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: MNUC PARM TU

SUBJECT: RFG: TURKEY IMPOUNDS RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL AND
HABUR GATE

REF: CURRY EMAIL 21JAN04

¶1. (U) Sensitive but Unclassified.

¶2. (SBU) This is an urgent action request; see para 2. In response to reftel email indicating the IAEA had received reports from Turkish officials that five trucks containing presumably orphaned radioactive material had been intercepted attempting to cross into Turkey, PolMilOff contacted the Ankara Army Attache who is currently at the border. Turkish border officials indicated to the Army Attache that there were five trucks in a holding area in which radioactive material had been detected. Border officials were awaiting instructions from Ankara to determine the disposition of the trucks. Army Attache has requested border officials hold the trucks as long as possible, but if instructions were received from Ankara in the meantime, they may feel compelled to turn the trucks back to Iraq.

¶3. (SBU) Action Request: Embassy assumes that the GOT will not want the trucks to enter Turkey. Presuming the trucks are to be sent back to Iraq, please provide immediate guidance as to how to coordinate their transition so that they are properly handled on the Iraqi side of the border. In the meantime, Embassy will ask MFA to instruct the border officials to hold the trucks.

¶4. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.

EDELMAN